

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15, and 17-32 have been canceled. Claim 12, and amended claims 5 and 16 are in this application.

Claims 5 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert (US 5,850,457) in view of Ruzicka (US 6,118,876), Lee (US 5,589,718), Siems et al. (US 5,470,253), Glover (3,824,524) and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) of Figs. 12-14.

Amended independent claim 5 recites in part the following:

"each of said audio signal output terminals is arranged corresponding to positions of said plurality of speakers such that signal output terminals corresponding to left channels are arranged to the right of signal output terminals corresponding to right channels and signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged on top of the signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels or signal output terminals corresponding to front channels are arranged below signal output terminals corresponding to rear channels, said plurality of speakers being arranged corresponding to said plurality of channels,

each of said audio signal output terminals is distinguished by one of a plurality of different respective colors for enabling each of said plurality of channels and black and white colored marks for a pair of polarities to be discernable,"
(Emphasis added.)

It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 5 is distinguishable from the applied combination of references for at least the reasons herein below described.

First, and as best understood, the Examiner appears to assert that Gefvert and, in particular, Fig. 8B thereof discloses "each of said audio signal output terminals is arranged corresponding to positions of said plurality of speakers" as in claim 5. However, it is respectfully submitted that such portion of Gefvert does not appear to disclose the specific arrangement set forth in claim 5, that is, "each of said audio signal output terminals is arranged corresponding to positions of said plurality of speakers such that signal output terminals corresponding to left channels are arranged to the right of signal output terminals corresponding to right channels." In fact, Fig. 8B of Gefvert appears to illustrate the opposite arrangement for the terminals of the left and right channels.

Second, and as best understood, the Examiner appears to rely on the "Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) of Figs. 12-14" to disclose the display of the pair of polarities. However, it is respectfully submitted that such AAPA does not disclose ". . . and black and white colored marks for a pair of polarities . . ." as recited in claim 5.

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 5 is distinguishable from the applied combination of references. For similar or somewhat similar reasons, it is also believed that claim 16 is distinguishable from the applied combination of references.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee ('718), Siems, Glover, and AAPA, and further in view of and Lee (US 5,984,717).

Claim 12 is dependent from independent claim 5. Accordingly, claim 12 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee ('718), Siems, Glover, and AAPA for at least the reasons previously described. The Examiner does not appear to have relied on Lee '717 to overcome the deficiencies of the applied combination of Gefvert, Ruzicka, Lee ('718), Siems, Glover, and AAPA. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 12 is distinguishable from the applied combination of references.

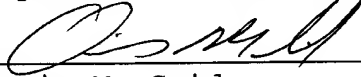
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dennis M. Smid
Registration No.: 34,930
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicants